(e) Following measures have been taken to reduce cost of production of steel to make the industry competitive:

(i) Upgradation/modernisation of public sector steel plants.

(ii) Encouraging research and development activities with financial assistance from Steel Development Fund (SDF).

(iii) Encouragement to reduction in energy consumption.

Referring SAIL to BIFR

2917. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to refer Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to BIFR; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Popularisation of sports

†2918. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is rampant corruption in national sports, from selection to the play fields;

(b) whether it is also a fact that rural boys are deprived of the opportunities to show their talents, despite being talented; and

(c) if so, whether Government would adopt a common policy for rural areas and metropolitan cities and formulate any concrete policy to popularise the sports world?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi